

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 GENEVA 05284 071829Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T GENEVA 05284

EXDIS

USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: CONFORMING SUBGROUP MEETING, APRIL 6, 1978
(SALT TWO-1684)

1. DURING A MEETING OF THE CONFORMING SUBGROUP HELD
APRIL 6 ON THE SUBJECT OF THE JOINT STATEMENT, SMOLIN
EXPLAINED WITH REGARD TO THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR "FURTHER
REDUCTION OF THE AGGREGATE NUMBER OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE
ARMS" THAT BY THIS USSR MEANS "SIGNIFICANT" AND NOT TOKEN
REDUCTIONS. WHEN ASKED BY MCNEILL TO ELABORATE AS TO
SOVIET UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT U.S. PROPOSAL FOR FIRST
SECTION "INCLUDING THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF THE
SURVIVABILITY OF PERMITTED STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS",
SMOLIN SAID USSR PROBLEM WAS CONCEPT, NOT WORDS EXPRESSING
IT. HE CLAIMED U.S. PROPOSAL WOULD BE CRITICIZED BY
"BROAD PUBLIC" AS CALLING FOR "CONSOLIDATION" OF STRATEGIC
OFFENSIVE ARMS AND "CODIFICATION" OF STRATEGIC ARMS RACE.
HE ASKED IF U.S. POINT WAS NOT ALREADY MADE BY AGREED
LANGUAGE FOR FIRST SECTION "...THE PARTIES WILL CONTINUE..."

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TO SEEK MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN STRATEGIC STABILITY...BY,
INTER ALIA, LIMITATIONS ON STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS MOST
DESTABILIZING TO THE STRATEGIC BALANCE."

2. SMOLIN ALSO PROPOSED VIA NON-PAPER NEW ADDITIONAL
SENTENCE FOR FOURTH SECTION WHICH WOULD APPEAR BETWEEN
PRESENTLY AGREED SENTENCES AND WHICH WOULD READ: "EACH

PARTY MAY RAISE ANY QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE SUBJECT OF THE TALKS" (OFFICIAL TRANSLATION). SMOLIN EXPLAINED THIS NEW SENTENCE INTENDED TO OFFER ALTERNATIVE METHOD OF DEALING WITH PRESENTLY UNAGREED PROPOSALS OF SIDES FOR JOINT STATEMENT. EARLE

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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